COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period for this DSEIS ends 45 days after the date of publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Two public meetings have been conducted in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, concerning the proposed action. An additional public hearing will be held during the 45-day comment period. All comments will be addressed and incorporated into the final document. Comments should be forwarded to the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Colonel Parker Hills, Public Affairs Office, Mississippi Army National Guard, P.O. Box 5027, Jackson, Mississippi 39296–5027; telephone (601 973–6349, facsimile extension 6176.

Dated: October 2, 1997.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 97–26868 Filed 10–8–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy

AGENCY: U.S. Military Academy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463), announcement is made of the following meeting:

Name of Committee: Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy (USMA).

Date of Meeting: October 31, 1997.

Place of Meeting: Superintendent's Conference Room, Taylor Hall, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

Start Time of Meeting: Approximately 8 a.m.

Proposed Agenda: Preparation of the Annual Report to the President, Annual Reviews of the Athletic and Admissions programs at USMA and a program review of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School. All proceedings are open.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Dubyel, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996–5000, (914) 938–4200.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97–26799 Filed 10–8–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710–08–M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Limited Reevaluation Study for Deepening of the Arthur Kill-Howland Hook Marine Terminal Navigation Channels

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Arthur Kill-Howland Hook Marine Terminal Navigation Channel Deepening Project was prepared and the project was authorized for construction in section 202(b) of the WRDA 1986, Pub. L. 99–662. The limited reevaluation effort recommends deepening and realigning the previously authorized 35 ft below mlw project in the Arthur Kill Channel, to the 41/40-ft plan. This plan entails the realignment and deepening to a depth of 41 ft below mlw from its confluence with the Newark Bay and Kill Van Kull Channels to the Howland Hook Marine Terminal; realigning and deepening to a depth of 40 ft mlw from the Howland Hook Marine Terminal to the Tosco Oil and GATX facilities.

The 41/40-ft plan would meet the current navigational needs of the project area by improving navigational efficiency and safety. Proposed improvements would allow deep draft vessels (current vessel designs) to safely navigate the channel, while remaining fully loaded, thus avoiding the need for lightering or steaming under partial loads.

The proposed project plans were analyzed in the 1986 Feasibility Report, which included the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USACE 1986 a,b). These documents are available in the District office for review. This document is a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the deepening and realignment of the Arthur Kill Channel—Howland Hook Marine Terminal, and part of the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR). The DSEIS examines improvements to navigation and the shipment of cargo to petroleum refineries/storage facilities and marine container terminals located along the project navigation channel, and addresses the economic, social, and environmental issues related to the proposed project. The purpose of this DSEIS is to update the 1986 FEIS and evaluate the changes in conditions in the project area to determine if there are significant new issues or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.

Potential impacts, including indirect and cumulative impacts, were evaluated for the proposed action and the other action alternatives. The analysis indicates that short-term adverse environmental impacts, such as benthic habitat disruption, would be balanced by beneficial impacts, such as revitalization of the maritime industry and permanent removal of contaminated material from the aquatic ecosystem.

The DSEIS has been prepared under the direction of the USACE, as Lead Agency in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and is submitted in compliance with NEPA and USACE regulations. The USACE is lead Federal agency responsible for preparation of the DSEIS because the project involves improvements and/or modifications to Federal navigation channels. Comments will be accepted for forty-five (45) days after publishing of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ATTN: Ms. Jenine Gallo-EIS Coordinator, CENAN–PL–EA, Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278–0090, Tel. 212–264–4549.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Project Site Description

The Arthur Kill is an estuarine tidal strait that connects Raritan Bay to the south with Newark Bay to the north. The Arthur Kill separates Richmond County, Staten Island, New York from Union County and Middlesex County, New Jersey. The Arthur Kill is approximately 13 miles long and varies in width from approximately 800 to 2800 ft. The total surface water area is approximately 4.4 square miles.

The system receives freshwater flow from the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, which discharge into Newark Bay, and the Elizabeth and Rahway rivers and numerous smaller streams and tributaries, which drain adjacent upland areas. Tributaries located within the study area include Old Place Creek and Bridge Creek in Staten Island, and Morses Creek and the Elizabeth River in New Jersey.